(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal regarding declaring 17 important roads of Rajasthan as National Highways is pending with Government; and

(b) if so by when the said 17 important roads so proposed by the Rajasthan Government would be notified as National Highways alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan has submitted proposal fordeclanng 17 roads of Rajasthan as National Highways. At present, emphasis is given for development of existing National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Ambulance on the NHs

1124. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to deploy ambulances on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to provide insurance coverage for the trauma patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b)This Ministry has been providing ambulances to States/Union Territories/Non Governmental Organisations to evacuate accident victims to the nearest medical centre under National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme. During the period from 2000-01 to 2004-05, 266 ambulances had been given to various States under this scheme. In addition, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has a scheme of providing an ambulance under Operation and Maintenance and Build Operate Transfer contract on completed stretches of National Highways approximately after every 50 K.m. As on 16.6.2006,81 ambulances had been deployed on National Highways by NHAI.

(c) and (d) Road accidents victims are already covered by the third party insurance under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.